

County of Contra Costa: Develop Recommendations to Improve DWR Delta Levee Subvention Process and Special Projects Programs

Staff Recommendation: No action at this time.

The Interim Plan does not have the authority to change the established administrative procedures for the Subventions program.

Background

The applicant is requesting the early action to streamline the administration of levee programs to expedite levee restoration activities in a more efficient way to meet the needs of the state and levee owners in a cost effective and timely manner. The applicant has indicated that near term appropriations for these programs necessitate addressing the issue prior to adoption of the Delta Plan.

The Delta Stewardship Council, in consultation with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, shall recommend in the Delta Plan priorities for state investments in levee operation, maintenance, and improvements in the Delta, including both levees that are a part of the State Plan of Flood Control and non-project levees (Section 85306 of the Water Code). Recommendations developed through this process probably will consider modification of the process for the levee improvement programs administered by DWR. Development of these recommendations may not be completed until early 2011 as part of the preparation of the Delta Plan.

The Delta Levee Subvention Program and related programs are focused on non-project levees, those that are not currently within the jurisdiction or control of the federal government or the state, and for which neither has a continuing legal obligation as an entitlement program. Due to a variety of funding constraints, it is unlikely that new bond funds can be made available for levee subventions in a short period of time.

It appears that the applicant may be asking that the DSC develop recommendations to improve the application and implementation process for subvention and special projects programs, rather than development of priorities between projects to be funded under the subvention and special projects programs as an Early Action. At this time, it is not clear the extent of the application and implementation process that is required by the Water Code or other regulatory processes, and the extent that can be modified in a discretionary manner by the Department of Water Resources. It may be difficult to complete this task early due to the need to collect and evaluate information from DWR, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and other agencies, and work with these agencies in development of the recommendations. Therefore, it may not be possible to complete this request as an Early Action.

Delta Stewardship Council Committee – Early Actions Review

Meeting Date: October 11th and 12th

Early Action Project or Plan Review: Staff Recommendation

The applicant indicates that scientific justification is not applicable. Science staff is in agreement with the applicant's scientific justification.

The applicant has identified the Delta Stewardship Council as the legally responsible entity in error. The legally responsible entity is the California Department of Water Resources.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Application for Consideration of a Plan or Project

Contact

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